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SOME ENEMY OPINION.

THE committee on public information at Washington is being supplied regularly with copies of German and Austrian papers. The following extracts are interesting as indicating the bitter feeling between factions of both the governments:

Concerning the new National party the Socialist organ, Vorwarts, writes in its issue of October 13: "There is no further room for doubt, if ever any existed, that the new party takes its stand opposite to the reichstag majority, not with a view to healing differences of opinion, but with the deliberate intention of sowing dissension. The latest war cry uttered against Kuhlmann's Alsace-Lorraine speech proves that the opposition of the new party will be equally directed against the government's foreign policy. A government, therefore, which permits such a party openly to pursue its ends becomes a laughingstock. We personally have a very short answer for the new party: 'Where the true majority of the German people rests can not be proved by the utterances of a party press, subsidized and advertised by war-profiteering funds, not by organized demonstrations of 4,000 out of the 4,500,000 inhabitants of Greater Berlin.' The fact of where the true majority rests will come out at the polls at the next general election, to which, in spite of all the National party's shrieking we look forward with the greatest confidence."

In the course of a recent debate in the Vienna reichsrat the Czech Socialist leader, Stransky, violently attacked Germany and sharply criticized Count Czernin's peace program. Referring to Germany, Stransky said it was the fatal desire for the predominance of the German nationality in Austria which had brought on war. But for that the concessions offered by Serbia would have been considered sufficient. Europe would stand a strong German, but not two strong German empires side by side, governed from Berlin. Perhaps, after all, Great Britain, France and America are not so simple as to fight merely for the freedom of the Poles, Bohemians and southern Slaves, but fight rather for political reasons, for securing the guaranty of an Austria independent of Germany and not ruled from Berlin. It has been asserted that the alliance with Germany is indissoluble, but nothing on earth is indissoluble. Even if the union is so firm, circumstances may arise to render its continuance impossible, because they affect not only the policy but the actual existence of the country. Referring to Count Czernin, he called the count's peace conditions nothing but phrases. They were no conditions at all, but only a designation of the situation which should prevail after peace. They were "made in America"; that is, they were President Wilson's ideas put forth at a time when America was at peace.

The semi-official Vienna Fremdenblatt says, in its issue of September 2, that the note dictates to the German people conditions which would be humiliating were the nation conquered and the army and navy destroyed. "Our adversaries claim to have begun the war to assure the right of free peoples to dispose of their own destinies, and Mr. Wilson has always supported this fiction. It is clear that they mean by this their own right to dispose of the destinies of enemy peoples. . . . As it has become evident that the resistance of the central powers is not to be broken by force of arms, nor through starvation, the seeds of discord and dissolution are to be sown among the peoples of the central powers."

The clerical Vienna Reichspost says: "Central Europe will not be harmed if Wilson's note attempts to annihilate Germany and her allies by mere words. But, as a matter of fact, Wilson's answer, dismissing with an almost contemptuous gesture the entente projects of dismemberment and redistribution, as well as the plans formulated in the Paris agreement, betokens a complete disavowal of the entente war aims. If he insists that all nations, including Germany, shall share in the economic resources of the world, he loses sight of the fact that not Germany, which demands freedom of the seas, but England, which controls the world's trade routes, denies this equality of rights."

The official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (October 10) reproduces what it describes as very interesting comments on the part of Gwinner, of the Deutsche Bank, on the inexhaustible finances of Germany: "German means would long since have been exhausted had the English not cut Germany off from world commerce, but contented themselves with placing an embargo on her import of arms, ammunition and other war necessities, instead of prohibiting also that of pleasure and luxury articles. As it is, Germany has saved her strength! Capital can only be created by working and saving. The German people have been working and saving to their utmost capacity. The saving on beer and alcohol alone, calculated on the peace basis, amounts to 13.4 milliards (of marks) a year, and proportionate in other directions has been the saving of clothes, lighting, food and luxuries. Germany is living on the accumulated stores of forty-three years of peace. These stores will suffice for years to come. Such few commodities which she possessed in insufficient quantities she has learned to replace by substitutes, as, for instance, nitrogen for explosives and manures. Through the gradual bringing of these reserve stores into the market, such enormous sums in capital have become liquid and have flown continuously into banks and saving boxes that the demand for an interest-bearing investment of these moneys is once again automatically renewed and strengthened. Since the beginning of the war the number of the creditors of all German banks together has doubled. The deposits in the savings banks and collecting boxes of the poor and poorest are greater than before the war, even though from these sums also billions have been subscribed to war loans."

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"The Fighting Trail"

EPISODE TEN—"THE SHERIFF."

"I'm sorry," said the commissioner, "but I can do nothing for you." The sheriff gave him a significant glance, and he went on. "You see, they have the title deeds and have staked out a claim. Possession is nine points of the law."

He was an old man, the commissioner, a cringing soul to whom the petty clerkship meant the very means of existence. He owed that job to Causley, and paid the debt by sacrificing his honest convictions when the sheriff said the word. Nevertheless a look of mingled discomfiture and regret showed in his face as he watched Nan's plucky effort to restore her husband's courage.

Hogan drove up at the door as they emerged, the brave piece of bunting on the rear of his car still flapping in the wind. The placard above it read:

For Sheriff

"SQUARE DEAL" HOGAN

It was Nan that saw the opportunity, not Gwyn. She pointed eagerly.

"Look, dear, look! Half the voters in Lost Mine were at the wreck today. They saw a good example then of the Causley brand of justice, and now is our chance to show the people that he really is a scoundrel. I'm going to make a speech!"

Standing in the back of the bright red machine, one hand above her head and hair flying in the wind, Nan made a picture that drew the sympathy of every man in the crowd. Swept away by the emotion of a great cause, eyes bright almost to tears, she told her story with dramatic effect. Even the commissioner, listening behind his closed door, could sense the rising enthusiasm. In it he read a significant message for himself.

"Who will vote for Hogan?" she cried, and the call was greeted with a gusty chorus of approval. Hats waved wildly as she stood looking down into the surging sea of faces about her impromptu platform.

"Good work, little girl!" called a big fellow over at the edge of the crowd. "Right! We're for you!" came the answering shout from another.

Nan raised her hand for silence, ready to continue her speech, but as the cheering subsided the distant rapping of rifle fire came to their ears. Mingled with the single shots came now and then what sounded like a sustained volley. The firing seemed to come from the direction of the mine.

When Von Bleck drove off he did so with a definite purpose. Now that he had the deed recorded he must also gain possession of the mine. With the double claim of title and possession he knew there would be no danger of his plans hanging fire. But he must have both to be safe. Straight to Brown's saloon he drove, and there in the rear room, gathered in a tense circle around the rolling dice, he found his hand willing away the time at their accustomed pursuits. They sprang up as he entered, eager at the prospect of another fight.

"Well," announced Von Bleck, "this afternoon we'll capture the mine. Get busy now. I want results this time. Have a drink on me and then get to work! I will join you later." Five minutes afterward the band was on its way to the attack, with Rawls in command. Von Bleck, Shoestring and "One-Lung" re-entered the car and drove to the station, where a long, heavy box was taken aboard and carried off into the seclusion of the forest near the track.

C. V. AVERILL

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Southern Nevada Abstract Company, Agts

R. J. Highland, Mgr.

Back at the mine Casey's men were preparing the midday meal. The two men who had been left as sentries came in from their posts, and everyone was sitting down for a comfortable hour, when Rawls first shot knocked the kettle from its hook. Taken completely by surprise, Casey's men were so demoralized that instead of defending the engine house they took shelter behind an ore train outside.

"Take the engine house," shouted Rawls in command, and half a dozen of the bandits dashed in through the door and took position to defend the entrance.

But Casey was not trying to take the engine house just now. First he must get his men out of the trap. He worked along the side of the train until he reached the engine, mounted the step and crouched behind the cab.

"Hold tight," he called. "Lie down behind the ore in the cars!" and with this he grasped the throttle and started the train. Protected by the piles of ore, which served as a sort of entrenchment, Casey's men beat off all attacks as the train gained headway and crawled faster and faster toward the incline.

But Rawls was alive to the situation. What he desired was not a retreat, with the possibility of a counter-attack, but a decisive victory, a stunning defeat of Casey's entire force. Another train, with its engine pointed in the opposite direction to that in which Casey was established, stood on a siding. His decision was instantaneous. Summoning his men to climb aboard, he backed the train onto the track and started in pursuit.

The race was even until they struck the grade, and then Rawls' train, with every car loaded, had a greater motive power than any engine-gravity. As the two trains slid down the mountain the distance between grew less and less. Both sides were firing as rapidly and continuously as human fingers could load and press the triggers. Narrower and narrower grew the intervening space until the trains seemed to couple and lock. And now, back and forth over the swaying cars, there waged a hand-to-hand battle. First one side would take the upper hand, then the other, in a desperate rush, would carry the fighting back.

But this could not last. As Casey turned the hand leading down to the burned bridge he knew in his heart that defeat was very close. Out-numbered, his men would be virtually surrounded as soon as the train came to a stop. The only way out was across the bridge itself, trusting to a higher power than the charred supports and sleepers would bear their weight. Word was therefore passed along that all hands were to make for the bridge as soon as the

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engine halted. A moment later Casey closed the throttle, and calling his men to follow, leaped to the ground and started over the flimsy framework toward safety. It was a costly operation, but most of the men had made their way unhurt to the center of the bridge and were holding off their assailants with fair success when a new enemy appeared in the rear.

Von Bleck, Shoestring and "One-Lung" had mounted a Gatling gun on the front of an engine and were bearing down on Casey from the other side of the bridge. The fire had been less severe on this side, and the engine crept out over the sleepers with its deadly weapon pouring forth a tying fusillade of bullets. It was only by swinging their bodies underneath and hanging by the beams that the stout-hearted little band of defenders could save themselves.

Election day dawned bright and clear, and Hogan, his red machine conspicuous with campaign banners, was greeted with cheers wherever he went. The events of the day before had turned the tide, and Causley's defeat was a foregone conclusion. But the candidate dropped his campaign smile for a hearty laugh when he suddenly came upon Casey twisting his hat with boyish embarrassment before a young lady's praise.

"Isn't he—I mean it—perfectly lovely?" she exclaimed with enthusiasm as Hogan drove up. "Do you know what Mr. Casey did last night? Captured a brand new Gatling gun Von Bleck had shipped from the East. Isn't that simply magnificent?" She was beaming on the big Irishman with frank admiration, clapping her hands and murmuring those girlish exclamations which prove so often fatal to any man's self-possession. Casey welcomed the newcomer as a providential diversion.

"The Von came too far, that's all," he explained. "We worked along the side of the engine, and the Gat couldn't turn on such a wide angle. But they still have the mine, and a gang of men is working now rebuilding the bridge. Gwyn and I decided we, too, could use the bridge, so we are not disturbing them. And now tell me how the election is going?"

"Fine," grinned Hogan. "Mrs.

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COW RECORD BREAKER.

(By Associated Press.)

BERKELEY, Cal., Dec. 25.—Another university farm cow has broken all records for California. This is "Willowmore Cherry No. 2592," an Ayrshire cow belonging to the University of California. She has made a new state record for a mature Ayrshire cow by giving 9,472 pounds of milk and 140 pounds of butter fat in a year. Moreover, this breaks all California records for three successive years' production by an Ayrshire cow, her average being 9,307.2 pounds of milk and 410.6 pounds of butter fat.

BAD HALF DOLLARS.

(By Associated Press.)

HONOLULU, T. H., Nov. 30.—(By mail)—Counterfeiters are believed to be at work near the city of Hilo, island of Hawaii, passing lead half dollars that are close imitations of real money. It is believed that a band of Koreans who served prison terms some years ago for counterfeiting and who are again at large are responsible for a large amount of bogus money that is being picked up on that island.

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